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RNR151

MIDEAST - KISSINGER

*London trip may be postponed*

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BY LARS-ERIK NELSON

WASHINGTON, OCT. 10, REUTER - INTENSIVE U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO END THE FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO EUROPE DUE TO BEGIN THIS WEEKEND, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID TODAY.

MCCLOSKEY SAID KISSINGER HAD BEEN IN DAILY CONTACT WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN AS PART OF INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO END THE FIGHTING.

NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE TO POSTPONE OR CANCEL KISSINGER'S TRIP, WHICH CALLS FOR HIM TO VISIT ENGLAND FIRST, BUT MCCLOSKEY SAID A NEW LOOK WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT THE TRAVEL PLANS IF THE MIDDLE EAST FIGHTING CONTINUED.

MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT DESPITE THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TOWARD REACHING A CONSENSUS ON PEACE THE UNITED STATES COULD STILL SEE NO SIGN THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS USING ITS INFLUENCE TO RESTRAIN THE ARAB FORCES FIGHTING IN ISRAEL.

"ONE CAN CONTRAST WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SAID PUBLICLY IN THIS REGARD WITH WHAT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE SOVIET UNION IN ITS MESSAGES TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS," MCCLOSKEY SAID, REFERRING TO RUSSIA'S EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ITS ARAB ALLIES.

MORE WRM/BC1413

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BUT HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY POLEMICAL STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE MADE BY NATIONS INVOLVED OR INTERESTED IN THE CONFLICT.

"WE'RE LESS INTERESTED IN THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT WERE CALLED UPON TO MAKE AND THE STATEMENTS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS THAN WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME," MCCLOSKEY SAID.

"WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT A GOOD DEAL OF THIS IN PRIVATE CHANNELS."

MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WERE PROCEEDING PARALLEL TO ATTEMPTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN NEW YORK.

MORE WRM/BC1415

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HE REFUSED TO GIVE ANY DESCRIPTION OF U.S. DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL OVER THE POSSIBLE U.S. RESUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO MAKE UP FOR ISRAELI LOSSES IN THE PAST FIVE DAYS OF FIGHTING.

"WE ARE IN CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL BOTH HERE AND IN ISRAEL," MCCLOSKEY SAID WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT ARMS SHIPMENTS.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS REITERATED TODAY THAT THE FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A DECISIVE TURN TOWARD EITHER SIDE.

RETER WRM/BC1557/1417

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